Mounting AIDS in New Borns in India

173. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mounting AIDS in new Borns in India" appearing in 'Assam Tribune' dated September 24, 1996;

(b) whether 80,000 babies born every year in India are likely to be infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) passed on by their mothers; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being adopted by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The estimate is based on a single hospital study. It is difficult to extrapolate based on the report of a single study. In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation as a centrally sponsored scheme throughout the country. The strategies of the programme consist of generation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS, control of sexually transmitted diseases, Blood safety and rational use of blood, care & support.

Inland Water Ways

174. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC);

(b) if so, its broad features and the capital outlay involved;

(c) whether the Government also propose to go for a large-scale privatisation of the inland waterways transport sector; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind this plan and the type of financial incentives to be provided for procurement of modern fleets by the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Recently a leading Consultancy firm has been engaged to prepare a turnaround package for CIWTC for consideration of the Government. The Consultant is expected to submit the report by June, 1997.

(c) and (d) As per the policy of the Government; the Private Sector may be involved in the development of infrastructure facilities. Detailed guidelines for privatisation are being finalised.

HIV Test Facility

175. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the regional STD Centre at Safdarjang Hospital is not having adequate facilities for HIV testing for STD patients;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for providing HIV testing facilities, including supply of HIV kits at the Centre, as part of AIDS Control programme;

(c) whether any vehicle for HIV Surveillance Centre was sanctioned and subsequently withdrawn and the withdrawal of the same has made it difficult for the Team to cater to examination, diagnostic and health education needs of those effectively; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken to make the Centre fully operational and functional with adequate facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The Regional STD Centre at Safdarjang Hospital has facilities for HIV testing and it is screening selected STD patients also for HIV infection.

(b) It has been decided not to increase the number of HIV testing surveillance centre over and above existing 62 Surveillance Centres.

(c) and (d) Since the Safdarjang Hospital is not a HIV Surveillance Centre, no vehicle was ever sanctioned and as such the question of withdrawal of the vehicle does not arise.

Ragging in Educational Institutions

176. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any initiative for banning the practice of ragging of students in educational institutions throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Central Government regards the practice of ragging in educational institutions as reprehensible and unwholesome. Instructions have been issued, from time to time, to the universities and institutions, and State Governments to take stern action to curb this menace, and to invoke punitive provisions of law where under the garb